rice and wheat are selling in Kendriya Bhandar Fair Price Shops in Delhi/New Delhi since long back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have issued direction to the concerned authority for giving good quality wheat and rice; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) It is not correct to say that substandard quality rice and wheat are supplied through the Kendriya Bhandar's Fair Price Shops in Delhi/New Delhi. The food-grain items for the Kendriya Bhandar's Fair Price Shops are procured from the Food Corporation of India. The concerned officials of Kendriya Bhandar have instructions to accept only good quality ration items for their network of Fair Price Shops. Specific complaints received in this regard are looked into for taking remedial action.

HIV Infected Blood Donors in West Bengal

1802. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report prepared by the School of Tropical Medicine revealing that 25 percent of the HIV infected in West Bengal are blood donors;

(b) if so, whether this revelation close on the heels of the Bombay scandal in which the Indian Red Cross blood bank supplied HIV infected blood to 10 hospitals is not a matter of great concern; and

(c) if so, what effective precautionary measures are proposed to be taken to ensure that infected blood is not circulated either from the donors or the blood banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the report is not based on facts. The sero-positivity amongst blood donors in West Bengal is reported to be 0.03%.

(b) The report of the School of Tropical Medicine has no relevance with Indian Red Cross Blood Bank, Bombay's case.

(c) the regulatory mechanisms have already been tightened and it is mandatory now that only HIV free blood can be given for transfusion.

State Ministers Conference on PM's Rozgar Yojna

1803. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of State Ministers of Industry was held in June 1995, to consider the progress & success of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna;

(b) if so, what were the precise observations and suggestions made at the Conference; and

(c) what follow-up action has been taken and is being taken by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the observations and suggestions made at the Conference are relaxation of age for SC/ST and women beneficiaries; enhancement of income ceiling; raising the ceiling on business

enterprises; additional target for States fulfiling allotted target, and that Banks may be associated with the process of scrutiny and screening of the applications.

(c) Action has already been initiated.

Consumer-based Non-conventional Energy Programmes

1804. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any consumer-based non-conventional energy programmes which are popular and used by individuals consumers;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes;

(c) whether voluntary organisations working in the interest of consumer education are directly involved in implementing the programme; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions and the criteria adopted for giving financial assistance to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing a wide range of consumer based non-conventional energy programmes such as Biogas, improved chulha, Solar Photovoltaics, Biomass gasifications, Solar Cooker and Solar domestic Water Heating Systems through State Nodal Agencies, NGOs etc. in the country. Under these programmes family size biogas plants, improved chulhas, solar lanterns, domestic and street lighting systems, village level power plants, solar cooker and domestic water heating systems are provided/installed/promoted to meet the energy needs of the individual consumer/family/village. These programmes are quite popular among the users.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The voluntary organisations are also involved in consumer education, awareness creation and implementation of the consumer based non-conventional energy programmes. Financial assistance is provided to them on the basis of their expertise, experience, available infrastructure and past performance on terms and conditions laid down under various programmes.

Pesticides Causing Foetal Disorders

1805. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides are causing serious foetal disorders in women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing laws on pesticides are vigorously implemented all over the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

Work-load in Ordnance Parachute Factory

1806. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ordnance Parachute Factory has been reducing its work load for item manufacturing to enable private sector to take up these jobs;

(b) whether, as a result thereof, the rate of products and utilisation of installed capacity has been lowering down day by day;